

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A thin-film magnetic head provided on a support, the thin-film magnetic head comprising:

an electromagnetic transducer for writing and a magnetoresistive device for reading which are disposed on the support;

an overcoat layer disposed on the electromagnetic transducer and the magnetoresistive device on a side away from the support; ~~and~~

a facing surface to oppose a recording medium, the electromagnetic transducer and the magnetoresistive device being exposed on the facing surface; and

a heating element provided in the overcoat layer, the heating element generating heat when ~~energized~~ energized, and a portion substantially perpendicular to the facing surface being greater in total length than the total length of a portion substantially parallel to the facing surface, wherein

the heating element being a single strip wound repeatedly from an initial point to a turning point, and returning substantially to the initial point, in a substantially parallel path.

2. (Original) A thin-film magnetic head according to claim 1, wherein the electromagnetic transducer is disposed between the overcoat layer and the magnetoresistive device.

3. (Original) A thin-film magnetic head according to claim 1, wherein the electromagnetic transducer overlies the magnetoresistive device on the support,

wherein the overcoat layer covers the electromagnetic transducer, and

wherein the heating element is located farther from the support than the electromagnetic transducer.

4. (Canceled)

5. (Currently Amended) A thin-film magnetic head according to ~~claim 4~~, claim 1, wherein the heating element is separated from the facing surface.

6. (Canceled)

7. (Currently Amended) A thin-film magnetic head according to ~~claim 4~~, claim 1, wherein the heating element is placed so as to cause at least either of the electromagnetic transducer and the magnetoresistive device to approach the recording medium when energized.

8. (Currently Amended) A head gimbal assembly comprising:
a support;
a thin-film magnetic head provided on the support; and
a gimbal for securing the support,
the thin-film magnetic head having:
an electromagnetic transducer for writing and a magnetoresistive device for reading which are disposed on the support;

an overcoat layer disposed at an opposite side of the electromagnetic transducer and the magnetoresistive device from the support; and

a facing surface to oppose a recording medium, the electromagnetic transducer and the magnetoresistive device being exposed on the facing surface; and

a heating element provided in the overcoat layer, the heating element generating heat when ~~energized~~, energized, and a portion substantially perpendicular to the facing surface being greater in total length than the total length of a portion substantially parallel to the facing surface, wherein

the heating element being a single strip wound repeatedly from an initial point to a turning point, and returning substantially to the initial point, in a substantially parallel path.

9. (Currently Amended) A hard disk drive comprising:
- a support;
 - a thin-film magnetic head provided on the support; and
 - a recording medium facing the thin-film magnetic head,
- the thin-film magnetic head having:
- an electromagnetic transducer for writing and a magnetoresistive device for reading which are disposed on the support;
 - an overcoat layer disposed at an opposite side of the electromagnetic transducer and the magnetoresistive device from the support; and
 - a facing surface to oppose a recording medium, the electromagnetic transducer and the magnetoresistive device being exposed on the facing surface; and
- a heating element provided in the overcoat layer, the heating element generating heat when ~~energized~~energized, and a portion substantially perpendicular to the facing surface being greater in total length than the total length of a portion substantially parallel to the facing surface, wherein
- the heating element being a single strip wound repeatedly from an initial point to a turning point, and returning substantially to the initial point, in a substantially parallel path.

10. (New) A thin-film magnetic head according to claim 1, wherein the heating element having:
- a first portion meandering between a first point and a halfway point; and

a second portion connected to the first portion, and meandering in the direction opposite to and along the first portion from the halfway point to a second point positioned in the vicinity of the first point.

11. (New) A head gimbal assembly according to claim 8, the heating element having:

a first portion meandering between a first point and a halfway point; and

a second portion connected to the first portion, and meandering in the direction opposite to and along the first portion from the halfway point to a second point positioned in the vicinity of the first point.

12. (New) A hard disk drive according to claim 9, the heating element having:

a first portion meandering between a first point and a halfway point; and

a second portion connected to the first portion, and meandering in the direction opposite to and along the first portion from the halfway point to a second point positioned in the vicinity of the first point.